

Obituary

Anupam Mishra

Environmentalist and the 'waterman' of India, Shri Anupam Mishra, expired at Delhi, in the early morning of 19th Dec. 2016.

Anupam was born on 5th June 1948, as the third son of a renowned hindi poet, Late Shri Bhawani Prasad Mishra, at Wardha (M. P.). Bhawani Prasad ji made a name for himself as a literateur and a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. Accordingly he edited several books on Gandhi, and worked till his end as the editor of '*Gandhi Marg*', a magazine of the Sarvodaya Movement, while he worked in the Gandhi Peace Foundation (Gandhi Shanti Pratisthan) at New Delhi.

Anupam was M. A. in Sanskrit and learnt hindi, sanskrit, english and some local rural dialects of North India. He loved literature and started writing early. He was also a connoisseur of hindi films and had a hobby as photographer. He wrote many travelogues. He also worked life long in the Gandhi Peace Foundation and edited *Gandhi Marg*.

Then he produced two wonderful books in hindi on the water scarcity in Rajasthan. These are original accounts with depth of research. These books are entitled as '*Aaj bhi khare hain Talab*' (Tanks and Ponds are relevant even today) and '*Rajasthan ki rajat boonden*' (Silver drops of Rajasthan). These were published by Gandhi Peace Foundation. His last book, also in hindi, is entitled, '*Saaf maathe ka samaj*' (a society with clear forehead). It was published by Penguin India. Earlier he also edited two books, '*Desh ka Paryavaran*' (Environment of the country) and '*Hamara Paryavaran*' (Our Environment). His '*Talab*' book was translated in sev-

eral languages and saw many editions. He vested the copyright of his all publications in the Gandhi Peace Foundation.

He worked as a 'missionary journalist' till emergency years. Then from UNEP Nairobi, he was given a grant to study and compile a report on the Survey of self-appointed NGOs in India.

Anupam Mishra was a hard core naturalist and deeply involved with environmental issues. He worked with Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Gaura Devi of 'Chipko' fame. He got many projects undertaken in different parts of the country, but strictly refused to use foreign grants, Govt. posts or land for these. He even refused to take aid from industrialists.

He visited Nairobi a few times and was also delegated to Rio de Janeiro and Paris Summit Meetings, but declined to attend foreign jaunts. He also declined to act as advisor in government bodies.

He suffered a tuberculosis tumour in childhood. In later life he developed coronary and neurological irregularities. These diseases ultimately lead to cancer which took his life.

He received 'Vriksh Mitra Puraskar' from Environment Ministry, Govt. of India. Several environmentlists and celebrities, including Ram Chandra Guha, Prabhas Joshi, Rajendra Singh, Sandeep Joshi, Arun Tiwari, Manish Vaidya and 'Indian Water Portal' family mourned his death. Newspapers and magazines (*Down to Earth* etc) carried obituary articles.

—RKV.

Estimation of Religion-wise Baby Births by 2060

Hindus will witness a "dramatic" drop-off in births between the years 2055 and 2060, due to declining fertility in India, which is home to 94% of the Hindu community's global population, according to a new Pew research.

The Pew Research Centre (U.S.A.) study also said that the number of babies born to Muslim women is expected to overtake those born to Christians world-wide within two decades, making Islam the world's largest religion by 2075.

Beyond 2015, Christian and Muslim mothers are expected to give birth to increasing numbers of babies through 2060. But Muslim births are projected to rise at a faster rate—so much so that by 2035 the number of babies born to Muslim mothers will narrowly surpass the number born to

Christian mothers.

Between 2055 and 2060, the birth gap between the two groups is expected to approach 6 million (232 million births among Muslims vs 226 million births among Christians).

By contrast, the total number of births is projected to decline steadily between 2015 and 2060 for all other major religious groups, said the study, which was released in April 2017.

"The drop-off in births will be especially dramatic for Hindus—who are expected to see 33 million fewer births between 2055 and 2060 than between 2010 and 2015—due in large part to declining fertility in India, which is home to 94% of the global Hindu population as of 2015," according to the study titled '*The Changing Global Religious Landscape*'.